Agents at Revision Stations

One agent for each candidate may be present at a revision station while the Revision Assistant is working, either at the Returning Office or at a polling station. The agent must present his or her appointment to the Revision Assistant upon entering the revision station.

Agents can:

✓ Observe the work of the Revision Assistant.

Agents cannot:

✗ Intervene in the proceedings, except with the permission of the Revision Assistant.

Voting

If you are an agent at a polling station other than where your name is on the List of Electors, you may vote before election day by Write-In Ballot, or at the Special or Advance Poll. You may also obtain a Transfer Certificate, Form ENS-02-522, from the Returning Officer to vote at the polling station where you are acting as agent.

Elections Nova Scotia

Information for Candidate's Agents in Provincial Elections

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Introduction

This guide contains general information for those who are appointed as agents to represent a candidate at various stages in the election process.

When and Where an Agent can be Present

An agent may be present at the following places and times:

1. At any time in the returning office during voting hours to observe the **Write-In Ballot** process and to witness the count of the Write-In Ballots at the close of the polls on election day. An agent can also witness the opening and closing of the Write-In Ballot Poll each day it is open.
2. At the **Special Poll** in the returning office, during voting hours and to witness the count of the Special Poll ballots after the polls close on election day. An agent can also witness the opening and closing of the poll on each day of the Special Poll, which is open for 6 days (not including Sunday).
3. At the **Advance Poll** during voting hours and to witness the count of the Advance Poll ballots after the polls close on election day. An agent can also witness the opening and the closing of the Advance Poll on the two days it is open.
4. At a **Mobile Polling Station** on election day, during the opening and closing of the poll, during voting hours, and to witness the count of the ballots.
5. At each polling station at the **Ordinary Poll** on election day, during the opening and closing of the poll, during voting hours, and to witness the count of the ballots at the close of voting.
6. At any time in the returning office to witness the **revision** process, and to witness revision during voting hours at the various polls.

Counting the Ballots

Two agents can be present to observe the counting of ballots. However, a request must be made to the Deputy Returning Officer to have the second agent present.

Agents can:

- ✓ View each ballot as the Deputy Returning Officer counts it. The Deputy Returning Officer will show the ballot to others present at the count, but will not pass it around.
- ✓ Have a Tally Sheet, form ENS-02-515 from the Deputy Returning Officer on which the votes for each candidate may be entered.
- ✓ Object to the counting of a ballot, and have the objection numbered and entered in the Poll Book.
- ✓ Have a Statement of the Poll at the end of the count, and sign it if desired.
- ✓ Sign the seals securing the voting materials at the end of the count.

Agents cannot:

- ✗ Re-enter the polling place once the doors have been closed and the count has started.
- ✗ Handle the ballots during the count.
- ✗ Prevent a ballot from being counted. The Deputy Returning Officer has the final say.

Code of Conduct at a Polling Station

- ✓ Do not discuss politics while at a polling station.
- ✓ Do not wear any pins, emblems, buttons, badges, or ribbons, or have circulars, brochures or similar items that identify you as a supporter of a particular candidate or party.
- ✓ Work materials must be neutral in color.
- ✓ Identification badges issued by the Deputy Returning Officer may be worn.
- ✓ Do not interrupt or attempt to influence the voting process.
- ✓ No smoking is permitted in a polling station.
- ✓ Cell phones must be turned OFF while you are in a polling station. No calls are to be made or received while you are in a polling station. Move to an adjoining room or outside to make or receive calls.

On Voting Days

Agents can:

- ✓ Observe the opening of the polling station, the assembling and sealing of the ballot box and voting compartment.
- ✓ Examine and count the ballot papers and examine any other documents and materials.
- ✓ Observe the voting procedure but not the actual marking of any ballot.
- ✓ View the Poll Book or the Certificates to Vote to see who has voted, but only during a lull in the voting. The Poll Clerk will call out the number of the elector on the List of Electors as each elector applies to vote.
- ✓ Challenge an elector who the agent believes, in good faith, is not qualified to vote at the polling station. The elector then takes the Oath of Qualification, Form ENS-02-505. An agent cannot systematically challenge each elector. It is preferable that the challenge be made through the Deputy Returning Officer or Presiding Officer.
- ✓ If the Deputy Returning Officer or Presiding Officer acts as a friend of the elector to assist in voting, observe the marking of the ballot by the elector.

Agents cannot:

- ✗ Interfere with the conduct of the poll or the work of the Deputy Returning Officer or Poll Clerk, or Presiding Officer or Deputy Presiding Officer.
- ✗ Attempt to determine how an elector will vote, is voting, has voted, or to influence an elector's choice.
- ✗ Prevent an elector from voting.
- ✗ Approach an elector entering the polling station to determine their identity.

If an agent thinks there are irregularities at the poll, the Returning Officer must be contacted to resolve the problem.

One or Two Agents

Although two agents can be present in a polling station, there will only be a place for one agent at each polling station. The second agent may enter the polling station to communicate with the agent at the poll. Generally, these are the "inside" and the "outside" agents.

Only one agent is to be present at Mobile Polls. These polls serve long-term care facilities, and it may be necessary to go from room to room to take the votes. There must be as little disruption of the residents as possible.

The Role of the Candidate's Agent

Agents are present to represent the interests of a candidate in an election, by observing the voting process, by tracking the electors who have voted and communicating this to the campaign organizers, and by witnessing the count of the ballots and the subsequent securing of the voting materials.

It is the agent's responsibility to become familiar with the voting procedure at the poll he or she will be attending. There are handbooks available from each returning office that describe the procedure.

Agents at a Polling Station

Each agent must carry a signed Appointment of Poll Agent, Form ENS-02-520, to be present at a particular polling station. An agent can have an appointment for more than one polling station or revision station.

Before an agent can observe the voting process in a polling station the agent must:

- Show his or her Appointment of Poll Agent, Form ENS-02-520, to the Deputy Returning Officer or Presiding Officer.
- Take the Oath of Agent of or Elector Representing Candidate, Form ENS-02-504 in the Poll Book.

An agent can leave and return to the polling station. If asked, the agent must show his or her Appointment of Poll Agent, Form ENS-02-520, to the Deputy Returning Officer or Presiding Officer on returning to the polling station, but need not take the Oath of Agent of or Elector Representing Candidate, Form ENS-02-504 again.